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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/697,775 | 10/30/2003 | Giuseppe Principe | 163-514 | 8880 |
| 47888 | 7590 | 02/24/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| HEDMAN & COSTIGAN P.C. 1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10036 | | | CULLER, JILL E | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2854 | |

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/697,775 | PRINCIPE ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Jill E. Culler | 2854 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-4 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, on line 10, it appears that the word "tje" should be "the" instead.

In claim 1, on line 12, it appears that the word "misalingning" should be "misaligning" instead.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,378,862 to Rebeaud in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,477,218 to Bean.

With respect to claim 1, Rebeaud teaches a supply system for a printing machine comprising a supply table, 14, which moves on longitudinal guides, 46, 51, 61, in a longitudinal advancing direction of a sheet, 5, which is able to be registered longitudinally by being passed under longitudinal registering means, 50, 60, said supply system comprising transversal registering means, 56, 66, which comprise a support shaft, 20, fixed to the supply table, 14, supporting a plurality of supports, 22, aligned

along it, see column 6, lines 40-43, each of which is fixed to said support shaft, said supports holding locking means 16, 20, 22, for locking the sheet, 5, on the supply table, 14, for a predetermined time, and an actuator, 40, to move the supply table, 14, in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction so as to allow the registering of the transversal position of the sheet, 5, without misaligning it with respect to the longitudinal direction. See column 5, line 41 - column 6, line 39.

Rebeaud does not teach that these supports are fixed to the shaft respectively through attachment screws or that the locking means comprise a plurality of pressure elements which can be activated through pressurized air, each respectively housed in one of the supports, said pressure elements acting directly on said sheet.

Bean teaches a paper processing system having a support shaft, 66, to support locking means, 62, which comprise a plurality of pressure elements, activated through pressurized air, each respectively housed in a support, 64, by an attachment screw and acting directly on said sheet. See column 6, lines 13-29.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Rebeaud to have the locking means of Bean in order to hold the sheet down with independently attached and adjustable elements rather than a toothed comb where the elements are fixed.

With respect to claim 2, Rebeaud teaches the transversal registering means comprise two transversal guides, 56, 66, which couple with each other and are able to slide along the longitudinal guides, 51, 61, the supply table, 14, being coupled with the

transversal guides, 56, 66, and being slidable in a direction transverse to the advancing direction of the sheet. See column 3, line 53-64.

With respect to claim 3, Rebeaud teaches that the transverse registering means comprise two support shoulders, 52, 62, which couple with each other and are able to slide with respect to two longitudinal guides, 51, 61, and in which the two transverse guides, 56, 66, are respectively housed. See column 5, line 65 - column 6, line 8.

With respect to claim 4, Rebeaud teaches that the transverse registering means comprise an optical sensor, 43, 53, 63. See column 7, lines 13-21.

With respect to claim 7, Rebeaud teaches the longitudinal registering means comprise retractable stop elements, 22, capable of cooperating with the optical sensor to register the longitudinal position of the sheet and capable of adapting to different sheet formats. See column 6, lines 32-50. It should be noted that any retractable means is broadly considered to be capable of adapting to different sheet formats, for example to sheets of different thicknesses, and therefore Rebeaud is considered to teach this claim limitation.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed February 3, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the cited references do not disclose elements adaptable to different printing formats or pressure elements that act directly on the sheet, this claim language is not sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention over

the prior art. Any retractable stop element is inherently capable of adapting to different sheet formats, as it will be able to be used with sheets of different thicknesses. The claim limitation that the pressure elements act directly on the sheet does not appear to significantly change the structure of the apparatus. The claim recites that the pressure elements are activated by the pressurized air and as these pressure elements are acting on the sheet, there is nothing in the specification to distinguish the pressure elements of the claim from the pressure elements, 62, of Bean, which also act directly on the sheet.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jec



Daniel J. Colilia
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854